Station Qila Raipur on Ludhiana-Takhal section killing 25 passengers.

(c) to (e) Details in this regard are awaited from the Government of Punjab.

(f) The security agencies are vigilant and have been taking appropriate, timely action to deal with terrorism.

Sanctioning of Telephone Connections

240. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:
SHRI S. S. ALUWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned out of quota/discretionary quota respectively from 1st December, 1990 to 20th June, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that rules were flouted while santioning the said connections;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some complaints have been received about phone connections sanctioned/issued on the forged signatures;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether Government propose to cancell all the said sanctions if so, the details thereof and number of connections likely to be cancelled; and

(f) if not, whether Government have made arrangements for sufficient infrastructure and staff for providing telephone connections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Number of out of turn telephone connections sanctioned from 1st December, 1990 to 30th June, 1991 is 21980.

(b) These telephones were sanctioned under discretionary powers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Discrepancies in sanction orders were noticed by the field units. An Investigation by Vigilance Department has been ordered and is in progress. Further action will be taken after receipt of Vigilance Report.

Committee on Pension to Freedom Fighters of Old Hyderabad State

241. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee has been set up to look into the pending cases of Pension relating to the freedom fighters in Telangana region of old Hyderabad State;

(b) whether the Committee has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(d) whether the report has been scrutinised by Government and if so, the decision, if any, taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The Special Screening Committee initially constituted on 5-10-1983 to screen/scrutinise applications from the persons belonging to the erstwhile Nizam State of Hyderabad was reconstituted on 30-8-1990 to consider the pending applications.